

NBC NIGHTLY NEWS
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1980 BRIEFING
BOOK

BROKAW: Good evening. The Carter campaign briefing papers simply will not go away. Those are the papers that turned up in President Reagan's 1980 campaign organization. And today, a congressional subcommittee which has been investigating the case reported that there was an organized effort on the part of Reagan workers to get the papers. And the subcommittee concluded that CIA Director William Casey had a major role in the efforts to get those papers. James Polk tonight on the report and the Republican reaction.

POLK: Casey, at an intelligence briefing on Capitol Hill refused to say anything today about the House committee report blaming him for getting the Carter debate papers. The report said, 'The better evidence indicates the Carter debate briefing materials entered the Reagan-Bush campaign through its director, Casey. Casey has denied under oath that he even knew the Reagan campaign had the papers. But the committee chose to believe White House Chief of Staff James Baker, who said Casey gave him the Carter material. The committee found one aid who was told that by Baker in 1980. But in 2,000 pages, the report failed to discover who smuggled the briefing books out of the Carter White House to the committee camp. The committee chairman...
REP.\DONALD\ALBOSTA (D-Mich.): There's a degree of forgetfulness that we do not believe. And, ah, no one that we know of has been complete candid with us in, in their answers.

POLK: That apparently included Budget Director David Stockman, who used the Carter papers in preparing Mr. Reagan for the debate but who says he can't remember how he got them. The report says such failures to recall were not credible. DAVID\STOCKMAN (Budget director): I told them everything I know. Apparently I did tell 'em what they wanted to know. And so, ah, they're unsatisfied. I told them under oath everything I know.

POLK: House Republicans dismissed the report as a political fishing expedition.
REP.\ROBERT\MICHEL (R-Ill.): And I'll take Bill Casey's word anytime against Albosta's.

POLK: The report argues swiping and using the Carter campaign papers was a federal crime that should be investigated by a special prosecutor, something the Justice Department already has rejected. That leaves the 1980 debate to be fought again in the 1984 campaign. James Polk, NBC News, Washington.